REMARKS

Claims 1-24 have been examined and are pending in the subject application and are presently under consideration. Independent claims 1, 9, 12 and 19 have been amended herein to incorporate the limitations of canceled dependent claims 2, 10, 13 and 20 respectively. Applicants' representative would like to thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended during the telephonic conference on October 7, 2005. As discussed, further clarification from the instant specification of the limitations from claims 2, 10, 13 and 20 render these claims distinguishable over the NCR reference. Accordingly, as you indicated, since the incorporation of subject matter from the instant specification is merely for clarification of limitations already recited in the claims, any subsequent Office Action will be accorded the status of non-final.

Favorable reconsideration of the subject patent application is respectfully requested in view of the comments and amendments herein.

I.   Rejection of Claims 1 - 24 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1, 2, 8, 11, 13-19 and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Renaud (US 6,021,491) in view of NCR International (hereinafter referred to as "NCR") (EP 0 849 658). Withdrawal of this rejection is requested for at least the following reasons. The cited references, either alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest all elements of the subject claims.

> To reject claims in an application under §103, an examiner must establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness. A *prima facie* case of obviousness is established by a showing of three basic criteria. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. Second there must be a reasonable expectation of success. *Finally, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations.* See MPEP §706.02(j). The teaching or suggestion to make the claimed combination and the reasonable expectation of success must be found in the prior art and not based on the Applicant's disclosure. *See*

09/605,602   MS146909.01/MSFTP118US

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In re Vaeck, 947 F.2d 488, 20 USPQ2d 1438 (Fed. Cir.
1991) (emphasis added).

The claimed invention relates to providing security and facilitating integrity of
components or assemblies employed during runtime by application programs.
Independent claims 1, 9, 12 and 19 recite similar limitations, namely a referencing
assembly that references the assembly *with a manifest that contains a token of the*
public key that is computed by a hash function. Renaud and NCR do not allow for such
enhanced transactional security as is provided for by the claimed invention.

Renaud teaches a digital signature verification system that employs a
public/private key pair wherein a data file and signature file are provided to a user, and
the user then verifies the digital signature in the signature file using a signature-verifying
algorithm. However, as conceded by the Examiner, Renaud does not provide for storing
a public key in a manifest of an assembly file, so as a consequence, the cited document is
further silent with regard to *a referencing assembly that references the with a manifest*
that contains a token of the public key that is computed by a hash function, as recited
in the subject claims.

The Examiner attempts to compensate for the deficiencies of Renaud with NCR.
NCR relates to a secure data processing system that secures each file directory of a file
system with an associated digital signature. On pages 3-4 of the subject Office Action
with respect to claims 2, 10, 13 and 20, it is incorrectly asserted that NCR discloses the
claimed limitations of a referencing assembly that references the assembly with a
manifest that contains a token of the public key. At the portions of the reference
indicated by the Examiner, NCR shows that a digital signature that identifies a file entry
is stored together with a pointer which links to a public key in a public key directory.
Thus, instead of having an actual token (e.g. a hash) of the public key used for
referencing the public key in the manifest of the assembly as in the claimed invention, the
reference utilizes a pointer which links back to an entire public key directory. Such a
feature of NCR uses a given public key in the public key directory to be used as a
reference for multiple file entries - a feature that the claimed invention in part strives to
mitigate. As a consequence of pointing back to the public key directory, the reference is

7

further silent with regard to referencing the assembly *with a manifest that contains a token of the public key that is computed by a hash function*, as in the claimed invention.

In view of at least the foregoing, it is readily apparent that Renaud and NCR fail to teach or suggest all limitations of the subject claims. Accordingly, this rejection with respect to independent claims 1, 9,12 and 19 (and the claims that depend there from) should be withdrawn.
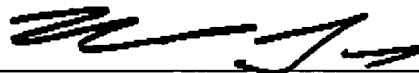
Conclusion

The present application is believed to be in condition for allowance in view of the above comments and amendments. A prompt action to such end is earnestly solicited.

In the event any fees are due in connection with this document, the Commissioner is authorized to charge those fees to Deposit Account No. 50-1063 (Reference No. MSFTP118US).

Should the Examiner believe a telephone interview would be helpful to expedite favorable prosecution, the Examiner is invited to contact applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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8